

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02289 100757Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----100758Z 016766 /11

R 100641Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2603

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2289

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US
SUBJECT: ASAD-CARTER MEETING

REF: STATE 69122, STATE 77175

1. AT END OF OUR APRIL 10 MEETING DURING WHICH I HAD PRESENTED PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (REFTELS) ASAD ASKED THAT I TRANSMIT HIS WARM REGARDS TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE AND SAY HOW MUCH HE APPRECIATED THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY HAD GONE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM. HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING PRESIDENT CARTER IN GENEVA AND WAS CONVINCED THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL AND IMPORTANT IN DEALING BOTH WITH MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS AND WITH OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IN GENERAL. "THE MEETING ITSELF WILL REFLECT THE BENEFICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE U.S."

2. ASAD CONTINUED, HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE "VITALITY" WHICH HE SAW IN THE WORK OF CARTER, VANCE AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION GENERALLY. HALF JOKINGLY, HE NOTED THAT SADAT DID NOT SHARE HIS INTEREST IN HAVING ISSUES STATED TOO CLEARLY IN PUBLIC. "OF COURSE, IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO SPELL OUT EVERYTHING IN PUBLIC BUT THE MORE CONTACTS THAT ARE MADE, THE GREATER THE CLARITY WHICH CAN BE BROUGHT
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TO BEAR ON THE HARD ISSUES. NO ONE SHOULD WORK IN THE DARK; IF HE DOES THERE WILL BE ERRORS AND RISKS."

3. COMMENT:

FROM SO NORMALLY RESTRAINED A COMMENTATOR AS ASAD, THIS IS UNUSUAL ELOQUENCE.

MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC02289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770125-0034
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770471/aaaacjnl.tel
Line Count: 63
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4155bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 69122, 77 STATE 77175
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2848272
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASAD-CARTER MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, (ASAD, HAFIZ), (CARTER, JIMMY), (VANCE CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4155bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009